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Coin Collectors'
MAGAZINE.



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MASON'S COIN COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE.

VOL. IV.

PHILA., JUNE, 1882.

NO. I.

Description of the Colonial Coins in the U. S. Mint Cabinet, Phila.

NEW SERIES, NO. 1, BY E. MASON, JR.

The British and American Colonial coins in the Philadelphia, or parent mint, is not such as every enthusiastic numismatic student would desire, either in quantity or quality; and not such as is creditable to Uncle Samuel, but the meagre sum annually set apart by the U. S. Government for the improvement of the mint cabinet will not admit of any very great improvement in the collection belonging to the great country in which it is situated. We are told that sometimes the enormous sum of three hundred dollars per year has been set apart for the purchase of coins! Just such a sum as would buy a very fine 1802 half dime, or 1796 and '97 half dollars; the former of which the cabinet stands in need of, and the latter in need of improvement. However, we must take things as they are and pray for an enlightened Congress to do better in the future. Here is the startling array of Colonials in the order found at the mint in May, 1882:

MASSACHUSETTS.

- 1652, Pine Tree Shilling, good, common type.
- 1652, " " " fair, slight variety in tree.
- 1652, " " " good, slight variety in legends.
- 1652, Oak Tree Sixpence, fair, common type.
- 1652, " " Threepence, fine, " "
- 1652, " " Twopence, " " "
- 1787, Cent, common type, fine.
- 1787, Half Cent, common type, fine.
- 1788, Cent, common type, fine.
- 1788, Half Cent, common type, good.

VIRGINIA.

- 1773, Halfpenny, or "cent," large planchet, proof.
 1773, " " small " "
 1773, " " " " fine.

VERMONT.

- 1786, Half Penny, Vermontensium, 8 trees, poor.
 1786, " " " (reverse only shown), good.

NEW JERSEY.

- 1786, Half Penny, or "cent," fair.
 1787, " " " short, stumpy plow, good.
 1787, " " " small, thin plow, good.

ROSA AMERICANAS.

- 1722, Penny, rose crowned, good.
 1723, " " " "
 1722, Half Penny, rose crowned, good.
 1723, Farthing, " " "

GRANBYS.

- Half Penny, Broad Axe, copy.
 Half Penny, "Value Me As You Please," copy.

CONTINENTAL.

- 1776, Continental Currency, tin, fine.

NOTE.—Next to this piece is a very good Jefferson head cent, omitted in our description of U. S. cents in a previous paper.—ED.

MARYLAND.

- 1783, Lord Baltimore Shilling, fair.
 1783, " " Sixpence, fine.
 1783, " " Fourpence, pierced, poor.
 1783, " " " very good.
 1783, Chalmer's Annapolis Shilling, pierced, otherwise good.
 1783, " " " fair.
 1783, " " Threepence, fine.

FRENCH COLONIALS.

- 1721, Termed Louisiana Half Penny, fair.
 1722, " " " "
 1767, " "(R.F.)" " fine.

CONNECTICUT.

- 1787, (2 pieces), observeenadrverse, good.

N. A. TOKEN. (CANADA.)

- 1781, very good.

NOVA CONSTELLATIO.

- 1783, Roman letters, U. S., very good.
 1783, Script letters, U. S., very good.

GOLD AND COPPER COLUMBIAS.

- 1785, Immune Columbia, struck over an English guinea, fine, unique.
 1787, Immunis Columbia, fine, (copper).

NEW YORK. (GOLD PIECE.)

— Brashier's Doubloon fine, nearly unique.

KENTUCKY(?)

— Pyramid of Stars, uncirculated.

— " " good.

FUGIOS.

1787, "Franklin" cent, (United States), uncirculated.

1787, " " " " good.

History of United States Coinage.

LAWS RELATING TO COINS AND COINAGE, FROM 1792 UNTIL 1880.

BY AN OLD MERCHANT.

Continued from March Number, 1882.

THE ACT OF MAY 16, 1866.

This act authorizes the coinage of five-cent pieces, composed of 75 per cent. copper and 25 per cent. nickel. The five-cent piece weighs 77 grains. A pound avoirdupois of this metal costs 70 cents. The pound contains 7,680 grains. 77 grains will go into this 100 times, less a small fraction. 100 five-cent pieces make five dollars. The value of the metal is 70 cents. The legal value of the coin is five dollars; a difference between the commercial or metallic value and the coin or legal value which is \$4.30.

This coin was, under this law, redeemable in legal tender Treasury notes in sums of \$1, and was legal tender for that sum; but in the law of 1873 it is made legal tender for 25 cents only, the same as the cents and two-cents; and it is now not redeemable in anything.

THE ACT OF JANUARY 29, 1874.

This act authorizes coinage for foreign nations at the Mint of the United States, they paying the expenses thereof; *provided* the Mint can so coin without interference with regular coinage.

THE ACT OF FEBRUARY 12, 1873.

This act is the one by which the silver dollar of 412 $\frac{1}{4}$ grains was demonetized, and it deserves a full examination.

1. SECTION THIRTEEN.—This section provides that all gold and silver coins of the United States shall be composed of 900 parts silver or gold and 100 parts copper in the 1,000 parts, with the proviso that the alloy

of the gold coins may contain one part in ten of silver. This is left discretionary with the Director of the Mint. This simply re-enacts the coinage act of 1837, then in force.

2. SECTION FOURTEEN.—This section simply re-enacts the laws of 1847 and 1849 relating to the gold coins that shall be issued in the United States, also in force.

The \$1 piece; the \$2.50 piece, the \$5 piece, the \$10 piece, and the \$20 piece are authorized. The \$1 piece contains 25.8 grains standard gold; the \$2.50 piece, 64½ grains; the \$5 piece, 129 grains; the \$10 piece, 258 grains; the \$20 piece, 516 grains; the \$3 piece, 77.4 grains. These coins are made full legal tender for their nominal value. Any of these coins in the Treasury having become light may be recoined; but no such provision is made for light coins in the hands of the people. These coins were all in existence when this law passed.

3. SECTION FIFTEEN.—This section provides that the silver coins of the United States shall be the following: A trade dollar of 420 grains standard silver, half-dollars, quarters, and dimes. The coins of silver shall be legal tender for \$5 only. Above \$5 they are not money, but bullion. All these coins except the trade dollar were authorized by existing laws.

4. SECTION SIXTEEN.—This section re-enacts former laws relating to 1, 2, 3, and 5-cent pieces, and makes them all legal tender for 25 cents only.

5. SECTION SEVENTEEN.—This section provides that no other coins but those mentioned in this act shall be issued from the Mint of the United States. This section demonetizes the silver dollar of 371¼ grains pure silver, which had been the unit of the money of account from 1792 till the passage of this act.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The New Coin Book.

The large Coin Encyclopædia upon which we have been working for several months, will probably be issued during the fall. This work will supply a long felt want. In the way of illustrations, it will be very attractive, and the numismatic information will be complete. Due notice of its issue will be given, with a reference to its contents made from advance sheets, in a future issue of this magazine.

NUMISMATIC HISTORY OF ENGLAND, FROM 1066 TO 1882.

BY F. J. JEFFERY.

PART I.—1066—1504.

Though William used the Roman W on his great seal—Willelmum—he adopted the Saxon F on his coins, and the inscription reads thus “*Fillem Rex*,” the reverse bearing the name of the moneyer and mint. William II seems to have made two alterations in his father’s dies; in one case he has “LVILLEM DVO,” and in another he introduces the Roman letter W in Willelmus.

Even at this early period we find the King and country waging a “law war” against forgers and counterfeiters: and Henry I, directly he ascended the throne, proclaimed heavy punishments against that generally unseen scourge of society, by the loss of the hand, the loss of sight, and even more severe penalties than these; but all proved so ineffectual that the Church was called to the protection of the legal coinage.

As they offer nothing of particular interest, I will pass over the subsequent reigns to that of King John. This King had, during his father’s lifetime, been sent over to Ireland, and he adopted the title of “Lord of Ireland,” his Irish money bearing his effigy in a triangle and the legend *Johannes Dom.*, and on the reverse his moneyer and mint. Upon ascending the throne of England he changed his title on the Irish coins to *Rex*, but retained “*Dominus*” on his great seal. Clipped money had been a source of great annoyance, and though laws had been passed for its better protection, still John found it necessary in 1205 to issue a proclamation; this was unusually severe, for it affected any one having clipped money in his possession. Should such be found the coins so defaced were bored through and the possessor’s chattels were seized and retained during the King’s pleasure; but if the possessor were a Jew or Jewess, his or her body was to be kept during the King’s pleasure—thus we find the Hebrew people subject to special legislation.

On his English coins we find *Johannes* and *Johannes Rex*, and on the reverse, as usual, the name of his moneyer and mint. Though mention is made of dies being sunk for coining round halfpennies and farthings as well as pence, four years after the accession of his son Henry III, none have yet been found; still sufficient proof is given that

they were issued. Up to this time if a halfpenny were required a penny would be broken in half by means of its being bent at the cross; a farthing, or fourth-thing, was a penny broken into four parts divided at the cross.

In 1227, while Parliament sat, an order was given that "The English grothe should be coyned at a certaine weight, and on the one side the King's picture, and on the other side a cross, as large fully as the grothe, to aduoyd clypping;" but no specimens are now known.

In 1247 clipping was again found to have reached a great height—to such a degree, indeed, that people actually refused to take the coin of the realm unless 2d. or 3d. for 1d. Wherefore a new coinage was absolutely necessary, and in this new issue there were some very great improvements which are well worthy of note—1st, the cross, which had hitherto only touched the inner ring, (to which the clipping had extended, as the law forbade the circulation of any coin so clipped that the cross should have been touched, thus leaving the defrauders a means of evading the law, even though clipping at least one half the coin off, *i. e.*, to the inner circle,) was now carried to the extreme of the outer circle or outer rim, with a view to prevent clipping; and, 2d, the distinctive numerals or words equivalent, *i. e.*, the number following, to shew to which King of a certain name the coin belonged, were re-introduced, having ceased to be used since LVILLEN DVO, the inscription being Henriens Terci and Henricus III.

It is interesting that Henry III's reign forms a *semi epoch* in our coinage, for besides the two improvements just mentioned there is a third, which, like the second, died with him, to be revived again some time after.

Foreign gold coins had been in circulation; for, says Ruding—"In his thirty-fifth year, he commanded Philip Lavel to pay the whole sum of gold which he owed the King, on the feast of St. Edward, in gold money, in bezants, or 'ob de mus', and other gold money. Provided, however, that the aforesaid money should answer to the King at the value of leaf gold: that is, I presume, fine gold." Probably Henry found this gold currency convenient, for in his forty-first year he struck and issued his gold penny at the rate of twenty pennies of sterlings for every gold penny: this coin, however, had not a long existence, for three months after its currency by proclamation,

the citizens of London petitioned against it, and its circulation was then declared not to be compulsory; it soon after disappeared, and only three specimens are now known to exist. Edward I is said to have issued his first coinage of half-pence and farthings in the year 1279, which are the first round half-pence and farthings now to be seen, though, as I said before, Henry III is known to have struck some.

This new coinage was followed by a proclamation forbidding the circulation of clipped money, and appointing certain towns and cities as places where such light money could be exchanged, within a fixed time, for that of legal weight, but being charged fourteen-pence for every pound. In the same year groats, or great sterling, were ordered to be struck.

The year 1300 is worthy of note. From 1066 to this date a penny weighed 24 grains troy (one pennyweight), so that a pound (troy weight) was the same both by weight and tale or value; the penny was now altered in weight to 23·7073 grains.

Edward III was the first king of England who struck coins bearing *Di Gra* or *Dei Gratia*; but these words are to be read on all the great seals since William I, and were used as early as the latter end of the seventh century by Ina, king of the West Saxons, in the introduction to his laws. In this our present age of enlightenment and education these words are considered by some nervous and superstitious people to be an indispensable part of the coin.

Mention is made of Edward III permitting florins de Esecu and florins of Florence to be current. In 1343 a proclamation was issued for three sorts of gold money to be coined; one with two leopards, to be current at six shillings, and equal in weight to two petit florins of Florence; the other two to be of one leopard and one helm, the half and quarter in value of the "two leopards" respectively. Some authorities give as the origin of "Florin" (Latin, *Flora*)—the lily—which, though on the foreign, was not copied on the English florin; others say it is from the coin having been introduced by the Florentines. All these gold coins were found to be too high in their current value in relation to the silver; they were, therefore, recalled in the same year, and a new coin, with its half and quarter, was issued and declared current—the noble, maille-noble and ferling-noble; the noble to pass for the

value of six shillings and eight-pence. These coins differed from the silver in type. While those of silver still bore the unskilled portrait, cross and pellets, these bore, for the first time, the heraldic symbols; but that is only part of the difference; the one side bears king Edward in full armour in a ship. The origin of the design is doubtful; some say the battle of Sluys gave Edward the idea, as emblematic of his supremacy by sea; others suggest that the ship is typical of the State, and Edward in full armour, the king at the helm, ready for all emergencies.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The John Brown Medal.

In reply to a subscriber requesting information concerning the above medal, we present the following:

The gold medal presented by the sympathizing friends in France to John Brown's widow and sons is the work of M. J. Wurder, of Brussels.

On one side it bears an excellent likeness of John Brown, the great Abolitionist. On the reverse is the inscription, "To the memory of John Brown, judicially murdered at Charlestown, in Virginia, on the 2d of December, 1859; and in commemoration also of his sons and comrades who with him, became the victims of their devotion to the cause of negro emancipation." The medal weighs nearly five ounces. Accompanying it was a letter to Mrs. Brown, signed by Victor Hugo, Louis Blanc, N. Schaeleher, Eugene Pelletan, Etienne Arago, Laurent Pichat and other members of the Committee of Subscription.

A *fac-simile* of the medal, in bronze, was presented by the Committee to Wm. Lloyd Garrison, for the interest he had taken in the matter and his offer to deliver the testimonial to the Brown family.

Fair Notice.

The bill submitted to Congress by the Committee on Coinage strikes the Trade silver dollar, and the Three and One dollar gold pieces from the list of U. S. coins. Under these circumstances it would be well to remember that there are now five series of our country's coinage completed since 1849, which in the near future will command fancy prices. We can now supply these sets, viz:

Three dollar gold pieces, uncirculated,	1854 to 1882, inclusive,	\$4.00 each.
One " " " " "	1849 " 1882,	" 1.50 "
Trade dollars, uncirculated and proofs,	1873 " 1882,	" 2.00 "
Three-cent silver pieces, " " "	1851 " 1873,	" .50 "
Two-cent bronze " " " "	1864 " 1873,	" .25 "
Seperate pieces at special rates.		

EDITORIAL EXCURSIONS.

NEW SERIES.—No. 1.

Serious illness in our family prevented for nearly a year the usual trips to New England among friends of the numismatic fraternity; but an improvement in said illness gave us an opportunity to visit a number of patrons in New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts. On the 24th of April we passed rapidly through Plainfield, Elizabeth and other towns of New Jersey, and arrived at New York in time to take the steamer Bristol for Fall River, Mass. From this point we passed on to Boston, arrived on the 25th of April, and visited friends Woodward, Schayer, Ahlborn, Littlefield, Davis, Meyers, Sanborn, Smith, and several others, with whom we had pleasant dealings and considerable coin chat. Woodward was busy, as usual, yet kindly exhibited his beautiful cabinet of Scandinavian and American Indian stone relics, stating that he should offer them at public sale ere long. He also exhibited some fine coins, among them a very fine 1796 half dollar and various other rare coins—all intended for future sales. We were pleased to learn that he secured the "Lewis Cabinet," chiefly composed of rare Greek and Roman coins, numismatic books of extraordinary interest, medals, coin cabinets, &c. When we say it *pleased* us, it is best to acknowledge that our pleasure at his purchase was tinged with disappointment from the fact that we were a competitor of Woodward's on this occasion; and so also was Scott & Co., of New York, but Woodward had the *home track* and *distanced* all competitors, winning the *heat* by a cool fifty dollars!

Well, it is a consolation to know that *duty* and not *booty* was our sole aim and object at the time negotiations were progressing from the triangular quarters of Philadelphia, New York and Boston to possess the Lewis collection, and confinement at home prevented active competition abroad. We left Woodward wreathed in smiles and visited Schayer in his new palatial quarters on Devonshire street, surrounded by live alligators and dead alligator skins! Schayer must be cornering U. S. dollars, as well as old alligators, for he spread before us several hundred specimens. After considerable trade and much chatting on coin prospects, we called on Ahlborn and disturbed his serenity and cigar of *peace* (he always has a cigar stub under his spectacles) by an

abrupt entrance and a telephonic "Hel—lo!" Suffice it, that we secured from this dealer proof 1842 and 1847 half cents, a fine proof set of 1869 and left our friend enjoying a fine 1793 Ameri. cent and a fine 1804. On State street we visited the various Exchange offices, securing some stock for future use. Down in the dingy basement at Corn Hill, we next plunged and fetched up in the "Old Curiosity Shop," among all sorts of trinkets, and fixings of an antique book and curio establishment, and found as usual very few fine coins. Next, through Brattle, Court, Hanover, Sudbury, Tremont and Washington streets, stopping here at a pawn office or book store, there at a jewelry or news depot, picking up a few important books, curios, coins, etc., and thence to Lowell railroad station, and at 4 p. m. was on the way to that humming city of spindles and pretty factory girls—Lowell. First on the list for a call was Elliot, the oldest coin dealer in Mass., and the reliable book-worm, who can furnish the bibliopolist with any work from Elliot's Indian Bible to the Lowell directory for 1882; besides which he can sell you a house to live in; from a tenement house to a castle. But Elliot was not in—two calls resulted the same—"not in." Next to that enterprising merchant, Mathews, whose store on Middlesex street was filled as usual with the *elite* of the city. A pleasant chat about his splendid American collection, and we left M. to call upon Raynor to secure a fine 1797 dime—didn't get it—kindly left the "gem" for Elliot. Thence to the Harris hotel, secured a room, and a good supper, lodging and breakfast. Harris had recently sold out his hotel, and the U. S. Government was making preparations to build a post-office on the site. Harris exhibited his American silver collection, which had some rare and fine pieces, and after making an offer for the same, we took train for Worcester, where we met Johnson, Martelle, Paine, and called in Flynn's old book and coin store; at the latter place secured an 1856 proof nickel cent for \$3, and then by appointment started for Martelle's to purchase, if possible, his collection of some 2,000 pieces. Offered \$200—he wanted \$1500—no chance of a *collision*; and then called upon various collectors with meagre results, and received word that our presence was required in Philadelphia, and started at once for home, intending to return in a few days.

Each subscriber to Vol. IV of this Magazine is entitled to a 4-line card.

Auction Coin Sales.

These public events occur about weekly, and a large number of sales are in preparation. Prices thus far have been remunerative, and no break of moment has occurred, excepting in the gold series of U. S. Coins.

A Pair of Valuable Uniques.

Cohen's 1791 Washington cent, struck in gold, is for sale; price \$500.00.

Drumheller's 1796 Washington silver dollar can be purchased for \$500.00.

Discovered!

The present employment of John Igo, the missing curiosity dealer, can be learned by reference to the XXI. chapter of John, III. verse. It seems curious that John Igo's full name should be found in one of the books of the New Testament, but such is the case; but his is not the only bad man's name in the good book.

The Bushnell Coin Cabinet.

Arrangements have been perfected for an accurate report of the Bushnell Coin Sale, and the entire collection will appear in our Magazine, with the price realized for each lot, or piece. This course has been suggested to us owing to the scarcity and cost of the printed catalogues; and this priced catalogue will be furnished in lieu of the usual gifts accompanying subscriptions.

A Word to the Wise.

All persons wishing to have a complete record of the prices obtained for each lot in the Bushnell six days' auction coin sale, should subscribe to this magazine before the next issue. Subscribers entitled to a 4-line card free.

W. S. Appleton, of Boston, has disposed of his gold eagles, half eagles and quarter eagles to a Boston dealer, and it is rumored that Devon-schayer street has a *share* in the trade.

ÆSTHETIC.

BY GEO. COOPER.

I wonder what can be the matter
With Polly, that sister of mine ?
She was rosier once, and much fatter ;
But now she does nothing but pine.

Why, she looks on a saucer or tea-cup,
With a very intense sort of air,
And one finger holding her cheek up,
In a posture that's much like despair.

She tells me that I'm not "æsthetic ;"
I'm glad that I'm not, for her face
Is as white as if she'd an emetic !
And this is her idea of grace !

A sun-flower transports her with raptures ;
I can't see the reason I'm sure :
But whenever a lily she captures,
Her tears one can hardly endure !

She litters her room with old china,
And images old as the sea ;
And she sighs that a treasure diviner
Than a cracked, dingy tile, could not be.

There's no living with sister Polly,
Each hour more perplexity brings.
Why, I can't even jump, when I'm jolly,
With the house full of "brick-bats" and things.

Polly's Sarcastic Numismatic Reply.

BY W. H. NEVIL.

I'll tell you the matter, dear brother,
With the sister you think so erratic ;
And, then you'll concede there are other
Sciences besides numismatic.

You worship coins, I the sweet flowers,—
Your "collection" to me is all "Greek"—
While I adore beauty for hours
You for rank ugliness seek.

Look at that row of old coppers
The "Jersies" with horse-head and plow ;
(Wrung from the purses of shoppers)
Before which you constantly bow.

Now gaze on that beautiful lily,
Ah, so sweet, so white and so pure
And answer me then, is it silly,
The beauty in life to adore ?

Laid Over.

Paradoxical as it may seem, a few "4-line cards" are like hens' eggs, *laid over* on account of *pressure*.

A gentleman bearing the appropriate name of Mr. South, bought at an auction sale in New York, on Monday, for \$870, the only known half dollar of the late Confederacy now existing. There were only four of them struck while the rebels had control of the Mint at New Orleans. The other three have been lost sight of.—*Philadelphia Public Ledger of March 15.*

CORRESPONDENCE.**MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION FOR SALE.**

The following letter will give a general idea of a collection of antique curiosities, paintings, books, Washington relics, etc., which we offer for sale—catalogue furnished any wealthy party desiring to possess a rare and unique collection, and a visit will be made to the locality of same with any person *meaning business*. This collection is without an equal in this country, and cost over one hundred thousand dollars. Among the paintings are original works of Rubens, Correggio, Lawrence, Raphaele, Gilbert Stewart, etc.

APRIL 21st, 1882.

E. MASON, JR.—*My Dear Sir*:—I enclose you a catalogue of the collection, and my desire is to make some satisfactory disposition of it, and will do so on reasonable terms; and as you gave to me such satisfactory success in the disposal of my coins, perhaps you can furnish me with a satisfactory purchaser for my collection. My price per catalogue is as follows: Books, about 1600 or 1700 volumes, as far back as 1593, paintings, curiosities, Egyptian relics, antique furniture of Washington, also ancient furniture—I will offer for thirty-one thousand dollars, cash. The Egyptian relics, the expenses for the same cost to collect over \$15,000. Now, if you will furnish me a cash purchaser, who shall be as satisfactory to me as your purchase of the coins, I will give a commission to you of two per cent. on the amount received by me. I also have a fine collection of skulls, (see catalogue.) A company should purchase my collection and detail it out to private collections; by so doing, it could be made to bring to any one in that

business a very large profit, but I have not that opportunity. Now, give the catalogue a fair consideration. If I would part this collection I could have sold it some time ago—as our late friend, Prof. Dickeson, could have stated. My brother traveled round the world during his 33 years of collecting, and did not give any consideration to expenses.

I am, very respectfully yours,

GEO. W. HUFFNAGLE.

Here's a chance for Societies, Museums, etc.—ED.

April 11th, 1882.

MESSRS. MASON & Co., Phila.—*Dear Sirs:*—I have the largest archaeological collection of American specimens in Canada, and knowing you were large collectors, thought we might be able to eventually help each other. My collection consists of over one hundred stone and pottery pipes, a number of which are splendid specimens, several hundred flint spear and arrow heads, fourteen splendid specimens of pottery drinking cups and bowls, about one hundred stone axes, gauges, chisels, etc, a few very fine banner stones, two of which are the finest I have ever seen, a few copper chisels, a magnificent lot of beads, stone, shell, copper and bone, all kinds of bone ornaments and instruments, such as combs, needles, bottles, mortars, etc., also sundry other objects.

I have a collection of bird and animal crania, which I will either trade for Indian relics or sell, there are some 40 or 50 altogether. The following names are a few of the principal: Shell Cracker, Ciconia Hebra, Blue Buzzard, Common Buzzard, Lessu Fish Eagle, Osprey, Otus Valuarius, Pecuis Apivarus, Grey Eagle, White-headed Eagle, Common Kite, Corvus Corax, Grey Fish Hawk, Wild Boar, Porcupine, Canis Arcus, Wild Cat, Bengallee Dog, Jackal, Turtle, Mongoose, Gennet, Flying Fox and others.

Trusting to hear from you, and that we may be able to do some business together, I remain,

Yours truly,

CHAS. A. HIRSCHFELDER.

The following complimentary communication speaks volumes (3 vols.) in our favor.—ED.

TREMONT AVENUE.

MESSRS. MASON & Co.—*Dear Sirs:*—The HERALD and medal received. Thanks. Am well pleased with papers. Think that you have hit the very hankerings of coin collectors by your publication. It makes one feel that the reserve of scientific numismatics of a few years ago, has

undergone a melting process since the advent of the HERALD. Make it monthly.

Yours truly,

W. VICTOR LEHMAN.

REPLY.—We shall certainly issue a monthly if our subscribers respond promptly to the call for this volume.—ED.

CHICAGO, March 21st, 1882.

MESSRS. MASON & Co.—*Dear Sirs:*—The HERALD received O. K. I wish to say a word in regard to coin sales. I am not much of a buyer at sales—always like to see what I buy. Here is the experience of a friend, a beginner: He bid on a base set of foreign coins, they were catalogued “uncirculated,” he got them at a good price. When he got the coins by mail he found he had similar pieces in his cabinet; he came to me and I told him I had them also, but told him I should consider them “good” and not “uncirculated.” Well, he sent word to the man he bought of, and asked him to buy them, he replied “O. K., send them on;” returned the money and priced them as *good*, saying, that is the highest he could rate them at. I call that a bare-faced swindle. Another instance of catalogue fraud: They take a confounded lot of German coins, that are included, in lots of 100 at \$3.00, and classify them, separately, of course. An inexperienced buyer thinks they must be worth having, if they are worth itemizing; he bids and gets them. Consequence: The result is as quoted in the first case.

A few years ago when coin sales occurred once a month, a man knew what he was buying, and the men who catalogued them knew what they were doing. I have coins in my cabinet that are not *rare*, and I have never thought them so; but when I come to look over the catalogues of to-day I find there's “millions” in my cabinet. That refers particularly to German coins. A coin of 1500 is not considered rare as a general thing, and they are invariably catalogued so. There are men in this town who say that coins of the Principality of Anhalt, of the 16th century, are in daily circulation in some of the above included cities. I bought a “one-fourth of Thaler” of Leopold, “Hog Mouth,” for 40 cents of a German who is a collector, and I thought it was not much of a bargain; but had it been in a catalogue it would appear *very rare*, in extra italics. My opinion is that modern cataloguers are not “read up” on foreign coins of the middle ages, and new collectors are also ignorant of the prices and degrees of rarity of this class of coins.

Respectfully Yours,

C. A. H.

MESSRS. MASON & Co.—In reply to a correspondent of yours I would say that the U. S. Mint reports that but \$80 in 5-cent nickels were coined in 1878. This includes those in the large and also minor proof sets.

COLTON.

❖REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.❖

- R. L. H., LOWELL.—The editor of this journal was in your city on the 26th of April, and twice in May, but did not find you at home. Send description of cabinet, or send coins by express at our expense.
- P. M. T., CHICAGO.—The Bushnell collection is said to be the property of L. G. Parmelee, of Boston; who, rumor says, purchased it and employed certain coin dealers to catalogue it for public sale. If this is the case the *uniques* will go to Boston, and also many of the choice pieces of the regular American series.
- M. L., WOBURN.—Your subscription is paid for Vol. IV, and one dollar and fifty cents to your credit. You are one of the "stand bys," and it does our heart good to hear from those who adhere to us through good and evil report. The *down* shall be *up*, and the *up*, *down*; for is it not so written in the version vulgate of nature's own book?
- E. L. S., PORTLAND.—Apologies are due, not only to you, but to many of our patrons for seeming neglect to answer letters, and delay in filling orders. We have been almost constant in attendance at the sick bed of a long suffering companion, upon whose efficient aid we were wont to lean. For nearly a year it has been a struggle between life and death for this, our nearest and dearest friend. At present, strong hopes of recovery are manifest, and whether the editor is at home or abroad, the arrangements now are such that all orders will be promptly filled and all letters answered on the day of receipt. The deprivation of an assistant, who has had a score of years of numismatic experience, adds an extra sting to the editor's affliction.
- J. E., HILLSBORO'.—Regret to learn that our mutual friend Adams is still confined to the house. Will attend to all your requests.
- P. T. B., NEW YORK.—We have two collections for sale, viz: The Hinfingale museum of paintings, antiques, library, &c., and the Angelovich cabinet of coins, &c. Shall we forward catalogues?

❖PRIZE PUZZLE DEPARTMENT.❖

- No. 1.—Why was the year 1815 omitted in the coinage of U. S. copper cents?
For best answer, guess, calculation or data, an 1856 nickel cent will be given.
- No. 2.—Why was the denomination of the early gold coins of the U. S. (Eagles, Half and Quarter Eagles) omitted?
For the nearest correct reason, a year's subscription to the COIN COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE will be given.
- No. 3.—Take nine copper cents and place them singly or in rows, without using either number (1 to 9, included), twice, and add them together until a total of 100 is reached. Any nine articles will answer as well as coins, or use the numerals 1 to 9, inclusive. For each solution of this problem a fine 1793 cent will be given.
- No. 4.—Give the reason why so many "over-dates" appear in the regular gold, silver and copper coinage of the U. S.
For the nearest correct and best worded reason furnished, a proof medal of Independence Hall and "The Old Bell" will be given.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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